

REPUBLICANS DOING WRONG IS WORSE THAN DOING NOTHING

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the willingness of House Republicans to jeopardize our economic prosperity, to jeopardize Medicare and Social Security is truly shocking.

Last night, the Republicans on the House Committee on Ways and Means approved a tax bill that is really based on the following principles: First, they will never pay down the over \$5 trillion of national debt and will continue to saddle American taxpayers with hundreds of millions of dollars of interest payments each year, the second largest item in the Federal budget.

Second, they will continue taking money that Americans have paid into the Social Security Trust Fund to use for other nonSocial Security purposes.

House Republicans have made an art form this year of doing nothing in this House. But there is one thing worse, and that is doing wrong, doing wrong by Social Security, doing wrong by Medicare, and doing wrong that will interfere with our economic expansion.

Let us say no to this outrageous tax bill that the Republicans are promoting on America.

APA SAYS PRESENCE OF FATHERS IN FAMILIES IS NOT ESSENTIAL

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the APA has done it again. An article published in the current journal of the American Psychology Association reports that the presence of fathers in families is "not essential" and that fathers actually "may be detrimental to the child and the mother."

Can you believe this absurdity? Dads are dangerous. So I say to dads, do not bother about running home to play ball or read with your child. According to these psychologists, you will not be missed.

This report is on the heels of the national outrage the APA caused when they published another report stating sexual abuse does not harm children. First, praising pedophilia, now dumbing down dads.

Mr. Speaker, two decades of research support the fact that children who are raised without fathers are at greater risk than children raised with fathers and mothers. In fact, studies of over 25,000 children found that kids who grow up without a father are twice as likely to drop out of school, they are two and a half times as likely to become teen moms, and also the likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles.

These studies and hundreds of others uphold that dads do make a difference. When will the APA ever learn?

NEW SURPLUS AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE

(Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the people sent us here to do a job. They sent us here to preserve Social Security and Medicare. We must save Social Security and Medicare first before squandering any of the Social Security surplus or any other government surplus.

Paying down the Federal debt is truly the greatest gift we can give to our children and our grandchildren. Paying down the Federal debt means lower interest rates for a working family, more capital available for small businesses, and a brighter future for our children.

Let us not get carried away with this budget surplus feeding frenzy. Let us remain disciplined, focused, and fiscally conservative. The time to fix the roof is now, while the sun is shining.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS MAKES

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, what a difference a Republican Congress makes. For 40 years, Congress debated ways to expand government, promising more benefits in exchange for a bit less freedom.

Few, if any, candidates ran on tax increases, but somehow taxes kept getting higher and higher.

Welfare assistance was so broke that even those on welfare knew that the system was seriously wrong, counterproductive, and harmful. Yet, nothing was done.

Then the American people said enough and elected Republicans to the majority in 1994 for the first time in 40 years.

Now we are debating ways to cut taxes, not raise them. Perhaps the most significant achievement is the historic welfare reform bill signed into law in 1996. For millions and millions of families who have moved from welfare to work, they now have hopes for a brighter future, a seemingly impossible dream when despair filled their days and nights. The children in those families now have productive and fulfilling lives to look forward to.

What a difference the Republican Congress makes.

HOW MANY AMERICANS MUST BE VICTIMIZED BEFORE BORDERS ARE SECURE?

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, two Texas women were beaten to death in

their own home. They were two of nine victims supposedly killed by the infamous railroad killer from Mexico. The border is wide open. From narcotics to terrorists, the border is wide open.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, how many more Americans must be murdered in their own home? How many more Americans must die of drug overdoses? How many more Americans must be victimized and live in fear of terrorists? Tell me, Mr. Speaker, how many more Americans must be abused before Congress secures our border? Beam me up.

I yield back a massive problem that can and will not be solved.

TRIBUTE TO VIKKI BUCKLEY

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Vikki Buckley, Colorado's Secretary of State, who passed away yesterday after suffering an apparent heart attack on Tuesday.

Quoting a friend of hers, "Vikki's no longer in the hands of doctors. She's now in the arms of God."

Vikki proudly proclaimed herself to not be a hyphenated American. She held the distinction of being the first black Secretary of State and the first female black candidate elected as a Republican for a statewide constitutional office.

She is an outspoken conservative. Vikki served as the States chief election official and traveled around the State and country speaking out on various issues of importance to her.

Most recently, she gave the opening remarks at the National Rifle Association's annual meeting in Denver. Her speech has been acknowledged nationwide as among the most insightful concerning the heart of humanity and preserving the entire Constitution of the United States, including the second amendment.

I for one got to know Vikki quite well. In 1994, I was a statewide candidate Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor, and I spent almost the whole year on the campaign trail with Vikki. She is one who cares passionately about her country. She is an inspiration to all who knew her. She was deeply devoted to her family.

Although she is gone and away from us now, her inspiration and memory will inspire Americans for generations to come. I pray that God receives her openly into his heavenly kingdom and that her soul and all of the souls of those who have departed in faith rest in peace.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUT PLAN IS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)